

Northern Pike on the Kenai Peninsula

What is the issue with Northern Pike?

Northern pike are a native species in Interior and Western Alaska, where they live in a natural balance with other native species. However, on the Kenai Peninsula, northern pike have been illegally transported and released into some area lakes and streams, upsetting the natural balance of species in their new environment. This species was illegally introduced into Derk's Lake in the Soldotna Creek watershed during the mid-1970's. From this initial introduction, they have spread



into other waters and are now known to occur in 14 lakes and streams on the Kenai Peninsula. The same weedy, slow-moving streams and lakes that provide excellent rearing areas for juvenile salmon and trout also attract northern pike. Northern pike have huge appetites, with a particular sweet tooth for young salmon and trout, and can have devastating impacts on these populations.

What is being done about it?

We are working cooperatively with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to determine the current distribution and abundance of northern pike on the Kenai Peninsula and examine various options for removal and control. The goal of this project is to stop the expansion of the northern pike population in local waters, thereby protecting the valuable salmon and trout populations on the Kenai Peninsula.

More information, maps, photos, videos and recipes: [ADF&G Pike Page](#)